

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sorting a plurality of checks using a check sorting system comprising:

reading information from a check of the plurality of checks using a scanner module of the check sorting system, the check being drawn against an account maintained by a customer at a financial institution;

providing the information read from the check to a controller of the check sorting system;

using at least a portion of the information read from the check, obtaining, by the controller, a sort priority order number for the check from a database using at least a portion of the information read from the check, the sort priority order number being based on a delivery location specified by the customer for an account statement associated with the account;

sorting, using a sorter of the check sorting system, the check into one of a plurality of bins based on the sort priority order number obtained from the database; and

repeating the reading, obtaining and sorting steps for each of the plurality of checks.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading a routing number associated with the financial institution from the check.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading a number of the account upon which the check is drawn from the check.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

reading a check number from the check.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on a type of account associated with the check.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on processing for the check specified by the customer.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein processing for the check includes whether or not the check will be included with the account statement associated with the account.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on an amount of the check.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on a payee of the check.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein reading information from the check further comprises:

placing the plurality of checks in a feeder;

separating the check from the plurality of checks; and

scanning the check to read the information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sorting the check further comprises:

placing the check in an appropriate bin based on the sort priority order number.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a sort priority order number for the check further comprises:

using at least a portion of the information read from the check as a pointer to obtain the sort priority order number for the check from the database.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of checks include separators.

15. (Previously Presented) A system for sorting a plurality of checks, each of the checks being drawn against an account maintained by a respective customer at a financial institution, the system comprising:

a scanner module to read information from a check;

a controller coupled to the scanner, the controller receiving the information read from the check by the scanner;

a database coupled to the controller, the database storing sort priority order numbers for the plurality of checks, the sort priority order number for each check being based on a delivery location specified by the respective customer for an account statement associated with the account maintained by the respective customer, the controller obtaining the sort priority order number for the check from the database using at least a portion of the information read from the check; and

a sorter coupled to the controller, the sorter receiving the check from the scanner and placing the check into one of a plurality of bins based on the sort priority order number obtained from the database.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the controller is integral with the sorter.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes a routing number associated with the financial institution where the account is maintained by the customer.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes a number of the account upon which the check is drawn.
19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the information read from the check includes a check number.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on a type of account associated with the check.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on processing for the check specified by the customer.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein processing for the check includes whether or not the check will be included with the account statement associated with the account.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on an amount of the check.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the sort priority order number is further based on a payee of the check.
26. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a feeder module coupled to the scanner module, the feeder module receiving the plurality of checks and feeding the plurality of checks seriatim to the scanner module.
27. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the scanner module is a magnetic ink character recognition scanner.

28. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the scanner module is an optical character recognition scanner.